



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy  
Floor Statement  
Motion on Ordering the Previous Question to make in order H.R. 1478, the *Gun Violence  
Research Act*  
*March 15, 2018*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

America has always been a nation of problem solvers.

When our country is confronted with a seemingly impossible challenge, we tackle it head on. We conduct research, we examine evidence, we perform studies, and we don't quit until we've made meaningful progress.

From reducing automobile and aviation deaths, to eradicating deadly diseases, we always rise to the challenge.

In each case, a serious problem was claiming too many lives, and American determination—based on rigorous research—helped solve or mitigate that problem.

However, there is one place where we have deviated from this proud American tradition and abandoned an evidence-based approach to addressing our nation's most pressing challenges—and that is when it comes to the problem of gun violence.

Homicides in this country occur as part of the daily drumbeat of violence in our communities. They also take place in the context of mass shootings, like the recent tragedies at Pulse and Parkland—where a single individual transformed a place of life into a war zone.

Let me be clear: gun violence is a plague upon this nation and must be treated like the public health crisis it is.

Instead of confronting this problem with courage and candor, Congress has cowered in fear. For over 20 years, a single sentence—known as the Dickey Amendment—has been added to the annual bill that funds the CDC and other federal agencies. We can debate the exact meaning of the Dickey Amendment—what it does and does not allow—but the reality is that federally-sponsored research on ways to reduce gun violence has come to a grinding halt.

I introduced a bipartisan bill to repeal the Dickey Amendment, and it currently has 170 cosponsors. There are many steps we can take *right now* to protect our communities and our children while respecting the Second Amendment. One of these steps should be to empower our nation to fund independent, unbiased gun violence research that will lead to policies that save lives. It's the right, and patriotic, thing to do.

Thank you, and I yield back.